



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes, Sept. 15

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2010 MEETING

In attendance: Paul Bayer, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, Mary Harrison, Jane Howard, Peter Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, David Landskov, Josh Lobel, Brucie Moulton, Angela Olszewski, guest Mary Harmer.

- The **minutes** of the May meeting were approved as presented. There are no minutes for the year-end celebration which was held at the DPW in June.
- **Town Day, Saturday, September 25:** Tables, etc. need to be loaded on Andrew Fischer's truck on Friday at noon; there are enough volunteers for this. A sign-up sheet for staffing the tables on Saturday was passed around. Handout items to be duplicated need to be given to Jane early next week.

New Open Meeting Law:

- Agendas must be posted on-line at least 48 hours before a meeting and draft minutes within 10 days, all exclusive of weekends and Holidays. Materials to be considered at the meeting (e.g. handouts, reports) must also be posted with the agenda, or referenced if posted elsewhere.
- Agendas should include an item like "New business" or "Other" so that matters not specifically listed can be legally discussed. Minutes should include the gist of the discussion.
- Send all Vision 2020 material to Joey for posting. Required format: Arial 12 point, minimum of underlining or boldface, no italics or bullet points.
- Posted items must be available to the public 24/7. There will be a computer at the Community Safety Building for this purpose.
- There can be no discussion by e-mail: e.g., a list of ideas can be circulated by e-mail but e-mailed reactions to the ideas are prohibited. It was pointed out that this would pretty much bring committee work to a halt. It was suggested that we write to our state representatives about the problems this would cause. Bruce F. will look into this.

Ideas for census mailing survey 2011 (must be largely ready by Thanksgiving):

- Questions to get public input for Scenic Byways and Economic Development subcommittee (chaired by Angela).
- Whether people plan to stay in Arlington after retirement and why or why not; what made them move to Arlington in the first place.
- Council on Aging questions: transportation options for seniors; in-home services needed.
- Some sort of synopsis/preparation for an override gleaned from our current needs and past survey responses.

Task Group reports:

- **Environment – Spy Pond:** The owner of Elizabeth Island is finally ready to sell it to the Arlington Land Trust for \$250,000; she wants the deal completed by the end of the year. Some money is already available; if hoped-for state funding comes through, about \$118,000 needs to be raised by November 30. The public fund-raising campaign will start on Town Day. Phase II of the phragmites control project, spraying the reeds growing on land, is slated for early October. A lecture on the fish in Spy Pond by Karsten Hartel is being planned.
- **Environment – Reservoir:** A planting plan for the habitat garden, to be displayed at Town Day, is in the works.

- **Environment - Sustainable Arlington** worked with the Town on getting Arlington designated a Green Community, and on getting \$250,000 of state funding for several green projects. SA is now working with other groups on planning another EcoFest next spring, and related SA events this fall and next fall, and displays for Town Day, all with water as the theme.
- **Diversity** interviewed 17 new Town Meeting members on what prompted them to run, how they campaigned, and how they learned to function as Town Meeting members. An orientation session for new members seems needed. Better yet, a session early in the year, both on how to run for Town Meeting and how to be a member. A “meet and greet” for new members, 7 – 8 before the first Town Meeting session, was also suggested.
- **Governance:** “Settling In” has been revised and has morphed from a booklet to an on-line item which is more easily kept up to date. It used to be distributed by realtors; now they could distribute a card with the URL to “Settling In” and emergency numbers
- **Fiscal Resources:** Pete Howard discussed the retrospective analysis of the Town’s five-year plan which had been e-mailed to the committee as a Powerpoint presentation. It showed that the plan had been largely followed, but both some revenue like new growth and some expenses like health insurance and special education had been underestimated. Consequently some budget items had to be adjusted. Schools did not benefit from the increased revenues; this should be changed in the next five-year plan. The question was raised whether the analysis had better be presented to Town Meeting members in text format with more explanation than can fit into Powerpoint -- but would people read all that text?